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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Human resources management

Conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials, other than Secretariat officials, serving the General Assembly: full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/354). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information and clarifications.

2. The report of the Secretary-General was submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 58/266, by which the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to bring the issue of conditions of service and compensation of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee to the attention of the Assembly when the annual compensation for the three officials falls below the level of compensation of Assistant Secretaries-General, but no sooner than at its sixty-third session, and decided that that procedure would replace the requirement for future five-year comprehensive reviews.

3. The report of the Secretary-General provides the historical background concerning the compensation of the above-mentioned officials (A/63/354, paras. 4-15). It should be noted, in this connection, that since 1994 the Advisory Committee has had a Vice-Chairman, who is not remunerated.

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4. As indicated in paragraph 9 of the report, the annual net compensation of the two full-time members of the International Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee has continued to be adjusted every January on the basis of 90 per cent of the consumer price index (CPI) movement for New York measured over the period from November to November. The Chairman of the Commission and the Chairman of the Advisory Committee are also paid a special allowance in recognition of their added responsibilities, which has remained at the level of $10,000 since 2001 (see General Assembly resolution 55/238).

5. As quoted in paragraph 12 of the report, it has been the long-standing practice to take into account the level of remuneration of senior Secretariat officials in determining the appropriate remuneration for members of organs or subsidiary organs of the United Nations appointed by the United Nations to serve in their individual capacity on a full-time basis (A/C.5/38/27, para. 41). The annex to the report of the Secretary-General provided information on the evolution of the annual net compensation of the three officials, as compared with that of senior officials of the Secretariat at Headquarters, since 2004.

6. Upon enquiry, the Advisory Committee was informed that the three officials were not entitled to the following conditions of service applicable to senior Secretariat officials: dependency allowance, rental subsidy, representation allowance, commutation of accrued annual leave upon separation and repatriation grant.

7. On the basis of the information provided in the report of the Secretary-General it is estimated that there will be additional requirements of $33,194 for the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, comprising $18,686 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, and $14,508 under section 30, Jointly financed administrative activities.

8. The Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of the report of the Secretary-General.